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A NOTE ON THE SALT MARSHES OF NOVA SCOTIA

V. J. CHAPMAN

DURING a recent brief visit to the western coast of Nova Scotia to examine the salt marshes, some observations were made which, although but cursory, appear to be of sufficient importance to warrant publication. It is improbable that the present author will have another opportunity to visit these marshes, but it is felt that these notes may be of some value to any ecologist who may have occasion to study these salt marshes in the future.

The phenomena were particularly observed on the marshes around Wolfville (between Port Williams and Boat Island) which were examined with some thoroughness. They also appear to be true for all the marshes south to Digby so far as could be seen in those places where the railway winds along the marshes.

In a study of these marshes Ganong (1) stated that the permanent low association of old marsh was a *Spartinetum*, in which *Spartina alterniflora* (*S. glabra* var. *alterniflora*) (2) was dominant. The upper permanent association was stated to be a *Staticetum*, in which *Spartina patens* was dominant and *Limonium trichogonum* (*L. carolinianum* of some authors) (3) subdominant. It was also pointed out that a *Salicornietum* formed the characteristic temporary association of new marsh but was soon crushed by the two permanent associations. Although Ganong noted that one could trace a zonation of *Spartina alterniflora*, followed successively by zones of *Limonium trichogonum*, *Puccinellia maritima*, and *Spartina patens*, he did not consider that they could be regarded as distinct associations.